AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

[c01] (Currently Amended) A method of providing communications services, comprising:

receiving a request for data;

assessing in real-time an availability of network routing to fulfill the request;

assessing in real-time an availability of network bandwidth to fulfill the request;

ascertaining a preferred scenario of segmentation, dispersion, and assemblage of electronic data to fulfill the request;

sending a reservation to reserve a routing path, the reservation instructing a device to only accept packets of data destined for that routing path, the reservation specifying a window of time in which the packets of data are received and processed;

receiving a data stream to fulfill the request;

recursively segmenting the data stream into segments, such that a characteristic of a preceding segment determines how a current segment is segmented;

when a processing service is required, then grouping together individual packets of data as a new segment, each of the individual packets in the new segment requiring the processing service;

dispersing the new segment via a network to receive the processing service;

receiving a result of the processing service;

assembling formatted data comprising the result of the processing service and at least one of the recursively segmented segments; and

communicating the formatted ~~electronic~~ data to fulfill ~~fulfilling~~ the request~~, the electronic data formatted according to the preferred scenario~~.

[c02] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein ascertaining the preferred scenario comprises assessing a highest quality scenario and a lowest cost scenario, the highest quality scenario describing a combination of segmentation, dispersion, and assemblage of segments that achieves a highest quality of presentation, and the lowest cost scenario describing another combination of segmentation, dispersion, and assemblage of segments that achieves a lowest cost, despite degraded quality.

[c03] (Cancel)

[c04] (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~3~~ 1, further comprising issuing an assertion to a subcontractor that indicates the subcontractor correctly performed the ~~subsequent~~ processing service according to a ~~the~~ Service Level Agreement.

[c05] (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the assertion is certified to reduce the incidence of fraudulent assertions.

[c06] (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~3~~ 4, further comprising receiving an assertion ~~from the subscriber~~ that confirms the Service Level Agreement was satisfied.

[c07] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, further comprising receiving a volume of assertions from subscribers as indications of trust that each subscriber's Service Level Agreement will be satisfied.

[c08] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein when the service level agreement is satisfied, and the subscriber fails to provide the assertion, then further comprising denying communications services to the subscriber.

[c09] (Cancel)

[c10] (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~3~~ 1, further comprising ascertaining a highest quality scenario that describes a combination of segmentation, dispersion, and assemblage of segments that achieves a highest quality of presentation.

[c11] (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~3~~ 1, further comprising ascertaining a lowest cost scenario that describes a combination of segmentation, dispersion, and assemblage of segments that achieves a lowest cost.

[c12] (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~3~~ 1, further comprising ascertaining a most profitable scenario that describes a combination of segmentation, dispersion, and assemblage of segments that achieves a highest profit.

[c13] (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~3~~ 4, further comprising processing a segment according to the Service Level Agreement.

[c14] (Cancel)

[c15] (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

means for receiving a request for data;

means for assessing in real-time an availability of network routing to fulfill the request;

means for assessing in real-time an availability of network bandwidth to fulfill the request;

means for ascertaining a preferred scenario of segmentation, dispersion, and assemblage of electronic data to fulfill the request;

means for sending a reservation to reserve a routing path, the reservation instructing a device to only accept packets of data destined for that routing path, the reservation specifying a window of time in which the packets of data are received and processed;

means for receiving a data stream to fulfill the request;

means for recursively segmenting the data stream into segments, such that a characteristic of a preceding segment determines how a current segment is segmented;

when a processing service is required, then means for grouping together individual packets of data as a new segment, each of the individual packets in the new segment requiring the processing service;

means for dispersing the new segment via a network to receive the processing service;

means for receiving a result of the processing service;

means for assembling formatted data comprising the result of the processing service and at least one of the recursively segmented segments; and

means for communicating the formatted data to fulfill the request

~~means for receiving a first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol;~~

~~means for segmenting the first data stream into segments according to a Service Level Agreement, the Service Level Agreement defining parameters for communications service for a subscriber;~~

~~means for dispersing at least one segment via a network for a subsequent processing service;~~

~~means for receiving a result of the processing service;~~

~~means for assembling a second data stream, the second data stream comprising the result of the processing service and unprocessed segments; and~~

~~means for communicating the second data stream via the network.~~

[c16] (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising computer readable media storing processor executable instructions for performing a method of providing communications services, the method comprising:

receiving a request for data;

assessing in real-time an availability of network routing to fulfill the request;

assessing in real-time an availability of network bandwidth to fulfill the request;

ascertaining a preferred scenario of segmentation, dispersion, and assemblage of electronic data to fulfill the request;

sending a reservation to reserve a routing path, the reservation instructing a device to only accept packets of data destined for that routing path, the reservation specifying a window of time in which the packets of data are received and processed;

receiving a data stream to fulfill the request;

recursively segmenting the data stream into segments, such that a characteristic of a preceding segment determines how a current segment is segmented;

when a processing service is required, then grouping together individual packets of data as a new segment, each of the individual packets in the new segment requiring the processing service;

dispersing the new segment via a network to receive the processing service;

receiving a result of the processing service;

assembling formatted data comprising the result of the processing service and at least one of the recursively segmented segments; and

communicating the formatted data to fulfill the request

~~receiving a first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol;~~

~~segmenting the first data stream into segments according to a Service Level Agreement, the Service Level Agreement defining parameters for communications service for a subscriber;~~

~~dispersing at least one segment via a network for a subsequent processing service;~~

~~receiving a result of the processing service;~~

~~assembling a second data stream, the second data stream comprising the result of the processing service and unprocessed segments; and~~

~~communicating the second data stream via the network~~.